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budget being prepared by President Bush's administration. The full, traditional *Budget of the U.S. Government* was published on April 9, 2001.

Fourth Biennial Report on GPO Access Released

The fourth *Biennial Report to Congress on the Status of GPO Access* was released by GPO in December 2001. The report was transmitted to Congress in accordance with section 4103 of Title 44, U.S.C., and was made available on *GPO Access*.

According to the report, the information resources on *GPO Access* cover all three branches of Government, and include the *Congressional Record* and all major congressional publications, the *Federal Register* and *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *United States Code*, and other key Government documents. The databases also include such noteworthy publications as the *Budget of the United States Government*, *Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism -- The Report of the National Commission on Terrorism*, the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, and the *Energy Citations Database*.

As of December 2001, *GPO Access* provided public access to approximately 225,000 titles through links to more than 130,000 titles on GPO servers and more than 94,000 additional titles on other Federal agency Web sites. Recent statistics indicate that *GPO Access* fulfills approximately 31 million document retrievals per month, with a total of more than 355 million retrievals during fiscal year 2001 alone.

Since the last *Biennial Report* in 1999, *GPO Access* has added new applications and publications, and improved several existing applications. Numerous system enhancements have also been made, including the implementation of a distributed caching service, the monitoring of referrals from other Web sites, and improvements to the GPO's Online Bookstore. In addition, a LISTSERV mailing list server has been brought online, with *GPO Access* offering automated e-mail notification service for a range of publications carried by the Superintendent of Documents Sales Program. Since September 11, initial steps have been taken to develop a *GPO Access* mirror site in a geographically removed location.

The report notes that the cost of *GPO Access* has been significantly lower than was originally estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in the legislation creating the system (Pub. L. 103-40). CBO estimated that creating and operating the online system would cost approximately \$6 million in appropriated funds over the first 5 years. In addition, CBO said the provision of free online access to Federal depository libraries would cost another \$2 million to \$10 million per year in appropriated funds and that, beginning in FY 1995, GPO would incur annual costs of \$750,000 to keep the directory of publications current and to maintain the electronic storage facility. In fact, the total cost of *GPO Access* has been \$19 million since it began operations in 1994, 61% less than the high range of the estimate.

The report cites high levels of customer satisfaction with *GPO Access*, noting that in

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June 2001, *GPO Access* was recognized with an E-Gov 2001 "Trailblazer" award; that in May 2001, LibrarySpot.com selected the U.S. Supreme Court Web site, which is developed and hosted by GPO, to be featured among the best and most useful library and reference sites online; and that in March 2001, the Congressional Bills database on *GPO Access* was featured in the Legislative Branch section of GovSpot.com. Also, in December 2000, Lightspan's Study Web selected the *U.S. Constitution: Analysis and Interpretations* application on *GPO Access* as "one of the best educational resources on the Web."

GPO Servers Provided Public Access to Supreme Court Opinions in Florida Election Case

GPO provided the servers and bandwidth to cope with the U. S. Supreme Court's release of its opinion in the case of *George W. Bush v. Palm Beach County Canvassing Board* in December 2000. GPO hosts the Supreme Court Web site and had prepared in advance for an unusual load by increasing the number of servers containing the Court's Web site and using load-balancing equipment to assure that all servers were used as efficiently as possible. At the time of the release at 11:55 a.m. on December 4, GPO had dedicated 14 servers to the Court's Web site.

Traffic on the Court's Web site began to increase almost as soon as the Florida Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Palm Beach County Canvassing Board v. Harris* on November 21. In the days leading up to the release of the opinion, the Court posted a

collection of 43 petitions, briefs, and oral arguments related to the case on its Web site. For the period November 21 to December 5, the Court's Web site received 4,346,687 page views, approximately double the normal volume for a two-week period.

Later, in the hours just before and after the U.S. Supreme Court's historic opinion in the case of *George W. Bush, et al., Petitioners v. Albert Gore, Jr., et al.* (No. 00-949) on December 12, the Court's Web site was hit for a total of 1.1 million page views. GPO replicated the Court's Web pages on a total of 19 servers in anticipation of the opinion's release. The 65-page opinion, which included all dissents, was presented as a 330 KB Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) file. When displayed in an Acrobat Reader, the opinion appeared as an exact facsimile of the original printed slip opinion.

Traffic on the site began to increase sharply at 4:00 p.m. and peaked in the minutes just after the opinion's release at about 10:00 p.m., totaling 1.1 million page views by 7:30 a.m. the next day. Between November 21, the day before the election case reached the Supreme Court for the first time, and December 13, the day after the final opinion, the Court's Web site had 6.4 million page views. During a normal month, the Court's site handles roughly 1.5 million page views.

GPO Access Makes Davis-Bacon Wage Data Available

The database containing *Wage Determinations Issued Under the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts* was made available without